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**PARTIES** 

KAY POWELL is a resident and citizen of the United Kingdom. 1.

Defendant CHRIS' WHALE WATCHING TOURS is, and was at all times herein 2. mentioned, a business entity organized under the laws of the State of California, with its principal place of business in the County of Monterey, State of California.

## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. KAY POWELL and Defendant are, respectively, citizens of a foreign state, the United Kingdom and of the United States, and claim is made for damages well in excess of Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000). Jurisdiction is, therefore, proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332(a)(2) (alienage jurisdiction). Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 as Defendant resides in the Northern District of California for venue purposes and the events at issue occurred in this District.

I.

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- This is an action for personal injuries to Ms. Powell as a result of the negligence of 4. CHRIS' WHALE WATCHING TOURS. On or about January 20, 2006, Ms. Powell was a passenger aboard the STAR OF MONTEREY for a whale watching tour. As a result of the negligence of CHRIS' WHALE WATCHING TOURS, Ms. Powell suffered injuries to her lower back and coccyx after she was catapulted into the air and landed on a large bolt protruding from the wooden surface of the bench on which she was sitting ("the Incident"). The Incident was caused by acts and omissions of CHRIS' WHALE WATCHING TOURS, by and through its agents/employees, including, but not limited to, operating the vessel in adverse weather conditions and failing to properly maintain the vessel. Defendant also violated the law in its acts and omissions, and is also therefore liable for negligence per se.
- As a result of the Incident, Ms. Powell required, and is reasonably expected to continue 5. to require, medical care. Ms. Powell would show that nothing she did or failed to do on January 20, 2006, caused or in any way contributed to cause her injuries. To the contrary, the Incident

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# CAUSES OF ACTION

6. Defendant's acts and omissions constitute negligence, in that Defendant (acting by its employees/agents) failed to exercise ordinary care, and the duty of ordinary care proximately caused personal injuries to Ms. Powell and the resulting legal damages of Ms. Powell.

#### III.

## **DAMAGES**

7. The negligence of CHRIS' WHALE WATCHING TOURS caused Ms. Powell to sustain actual damages. Ms. Powell is entitled to be compensated for the personal injuries and damages Ms. Powell sustained. Ms. Powell has sustained physical pain and mental anguish and in reasonable probability will continue to suffer physical pain and mental anguish in the future. Ms. Powell has suffered and will continue to suffer physical impairment and disfigurement. Ms. Powell is reasonably expected to sustain a loss of earning capacity before the time of trial and a loss of future wage earning capacity. Because of the nature and severity of the injuries, Ms. Powell required medical treatment in the past and will, in reasonable probability, require additional medical treatment in the future. Charges for such medical treatment that have been made in the past and those which will in reasonable probability be made in the future have been and will be reasonable charges made necessary by the occurrence in question. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Ms. Powell has sustained damages in excess of the minimum jurisdictional limits of this Court.

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COMPLAINT FOR PERSONAL INJURY; DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

U.S.D.C. (N.D. Cal.) No.

Document 1

Filed 08/18/2008

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Case 5:08-cv-03929-HRL

Kay Powell v. Chris' Whale Watching Tours, et al.

1.

JONES, CLIFFORD, JOHNSON & JOHNSON, LLP Attorneys at Law

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** 

Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial as provided by Rule 38(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

DATED: June 26, 2008

JONES, CLIFFORD, JOHNSON & JOHNSON, LLP

STEGER P. JOHNSON Attorneys for Plaintiff

KAY POWELL

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Filed 08/18/2008

**S.** JS 44 (Rev. 12/07) (cand rev 1-16-08)

## **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE TWO OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS							
KAY POWELL			CHRIS' WHALE WATCHING TOURS							
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff UNITED KINGDOM (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant MONTEREY  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.							
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)			Attorneys (If Known)							
STEGER P. JOHNSON (State Bar No. 083421) JONES, CLIFFORD, JOHNSON & JOHNSON, LLP 100 Van Ness Avenue, 19th Floor San Francisco, CA 94102 Telephone: 415-431-5310			HRL ADR E-filing							
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)			III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff (For Diversity Cases Only)  PTF DEF PTF DEF  OCCUPANTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)  PTF DEF							
U.S. Government 3 Federal Question Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party)		Citizen of This State 1 X 1 Incorporated or Principal Place 4 4 of Business In This State								
2 U.S. Government 4 Diversity Defendant (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place 5 5 5 of Business In Another State								
			en or Subject of a oreign Country	<b>X</b> 3	3	Foreign Nation		☐ 6 ———	☐ 6 ———	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	Te	l E	ORFEITURE/PE	NAITV	B.	ANKBUPTOV	ОТН	FD STAT	UTFS	
130 Miller Act   1315 Airplane Product   140 Negotiable Instrument   150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment & Slander   151 Medicare Act   152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)   153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits   160 Stockholders' Suits   190 Other Contract   195 Contract Product Liability   195 Franchise   196 Franchise   196 Franchise   197 CIVIL RIGHTS   197 CIVIL RIGHTS   198 Franchise   198 CIVIL RIGHTS   198 Franchise   199 Civil Rights   199	PERSONAL INJUI  362 Personal Injury- Med. Malpractic  365 Personal Injury- Product Liabilit  368 Asbestos Person Injury Product Liability  PERSONAL PROPEI  370 Other Fraud  371 Truth in Lendin  380 Other Personal Property Damag  385 Property Damag  Product Liabilit  PRISONER PETITIONS  510 Motions to Vacia Sentence Habeas Corpus:  530 General  535 Death Penalty  540 Mandamus & O  550 Civil Rights	RY Control of the con	GRFETT URE/PE  G10 Agriculture  G20 Other Food &  G25 Drug Related of Property 2  G30 Liquor Laws  G40 R.R. & Truck  G50 Airline Regs.  G60 Occupational  Safety/Health  G90 Other  LABOR  710 Fair Labor Sta  Act  720 Labor/Mgmt.  Act  720 Labor/Mgmt.  Act  720 Labor/Mgmt.  T40 Railway Labo  790 Other Labor L  791 Empl. Ret. Inc  Security Act  IMMIGRAT  462 Naturalization A  463 Habeas Corpu  Alien Detaine  465 Other Immigr	Drug Seizare 1 USC 881  undards Relations Reporting Act r Act Litigation c.	422 A	ANKRUPTCY  Appeal 28 USC 158  Vithdrawal  28 USC 157  PERTY RIGHTS  Approprights  atent  AL SECURITY  ALIA (1395ff)  Black Lung (923)  DIWC/DIWW (405(g))  SID Title XVI  SISI (405(g))  RAL TAX SUITS  Faxes (U.S. Plaintiff  or Defendant)  RS—Third Party  26 USC 7609	400 Star 410 Ant 410 Ant 430 Bar 440 Dep 470 Rac Co 480 Coi 480 Coi 480 Sel 850 Sec 875 Cu 890 Ott 891 Ag 892 Ecc 893 En 895 Fre 895 Fre 40 900 App Do Ut	itrust and Bank merce sortation exceed in Influence sortation exceed Influence sortation exceed Influence	enced and zations it ce modities/ lenge Actions its ilization Act Matters ion Act Ormation	
Proceeding State Court Appella	ate Court	Reinsta Reoper	ted or 5 and 5 and 5 spe	cify)	ict 🗖	☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation	7.	Appeal to Dudge from Magistrate Judgment		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION  Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  28 U.S.C. 1332(a)(2); 28 U.S.C. 1391  Brief description of cause: Alienage jurisdiction										
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND \$ According to proof UNDER F.R.C.P. 23  VIII. RELATED CASE(S) PLEASE REFER TO CIVIL L.R. 3-12 CONCERNING REQUIREMENT TO FILE  CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No										
VIII. RELATED CASE(S)  IF ANY  PLEASE REFER TO CIVIL L.R. 3-12 CONCERNING REQUIREMENT TO FILE "NOTICE OF RELATED CASE".										
IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (CIVIL L.R. 3-2)  (PLACE AND "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)  DATE  AGRICUME OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD										
July 24, 2008		186				/				